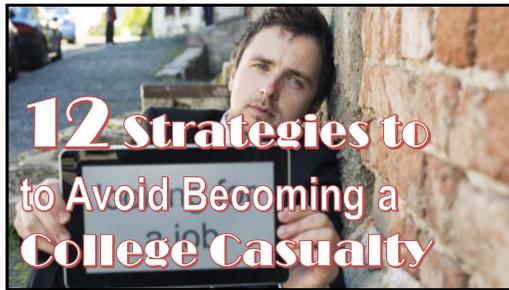


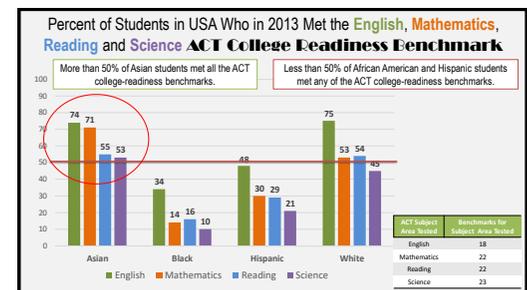
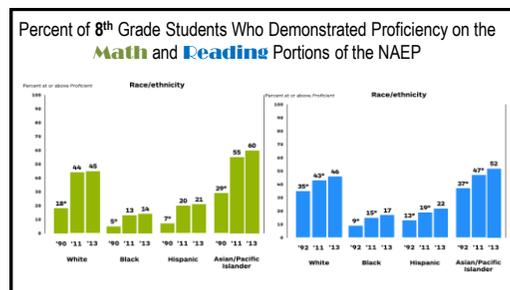
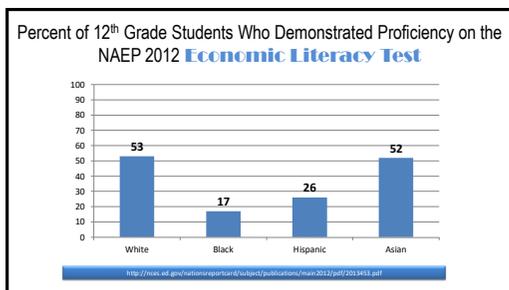
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The world, as we know it, is changing!



Students are now required to master **rigorous** academic content at **earlier grade levels** and they must do so at **"microwave"** rather than "conventional oven" speed.



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What are the ACT benchmark scores?

The ACT benchmarks scores represent the level of achievement required for students to have a **50% chance of obtaining a B or higher** or about a **75% chance of obtaining a C or higher** in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses.

College Course	ACT Subject Area Test	ACT Equival [®] Benchmark Grade 8	ACT Equival [®] Benchmark Grade 9	ACT Plan [®] Benchmark	The ACT [®] Benchmark
English Composition	English	13	14	15	18
College Algebra	Mathematics	17	18	19	22
Social Sciences	Reading	16	17	18	22
Biology	Science	18	19	20	23

Census data shows that students are enrolling in post-secondary programs like never before.



Nevertheless, statistics are also showing that students are dropping out of college in unprecedented numbers.

And if they graduate, they do so with degrees that are **NOT in-demand** (or pay very little) and/or with **crushing debts**.

In other words, many students are becoming **"COLLEGE CASUALTIES."**

- ✓ Dropout of College
- ✓ Earn Degrees that are NOT in-demand or pay very little
- ✓ Graduate with Crushing Debts



We live in a highly competitive society.
Are you ready to compete?

1

Students recognize, understand and have the ability to overcome their personal challenges.

Only one can win, either you or your challenge.

2

Students know and increase their levels of reading, writing and math proficiencies.

These proficiencies are the wheels that will get you where you need to be. Missing one of them is like driving with a flat tire.

3

Students make homework completion part of their daily routine and do it with integrity.

Homework is to academic success what sport practice is to a championship.

4

Students make positive and productive connections with their teachers and/or professionals who can provide assistance when needed.

It is arrogant and maybe stupid to think that we can accomplish big things totally on our own.

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5

Students understand and practice the character traits that are conducive to academic success and a quality life.

Character puts people in *cruise control*. There is no need to press the gas because they maintain the right speed on their own.

6

Students believe in their ability to learn and have high academic expectations for themselves.

Belief is to humans what gas is to a car. You can't go anywhere without it. You are likely to rise to the level of your own expectations.

7

Students know how to increase their level of intelligence.

Smart is something that you are but is also that you can become through effective effort.

8

Students embrace themselves and pursue physical, emotional and social health.

People will like you at the level that you like yourself. Therefore, you must take care of yourself because you, and only you, can take yourself where you want or need to be.

9

Students plan their academic careers, establish short and long-term goals, and manage their time wisely.

Whoever does not plan is already planning to fail and people who can't manage their time wisely, will find themselves in constant 911 situations.

10

Students understand, plan and manage their own financial resources wisely.

Being "broke" can lead to broken dreams; so let's avoid it at all cost.

11

Students know the purpose, format and use of every standardized assessment they want or must take.

Smart people accept the fact that assessment (or testing) is an essential component of the American culture – "test-taking" is a skill we must all master.

12

Students make good use of the latest technology to improve their education and the quality of their lives.

Technology is simply a faster and a better way of human doing things they need or want to do. Why not use it!

What should I take in consideration (or ask myself) when **choosing a college degree or major?**

1. Am I attracted to it? If yes, why?
2. How much do I know about it?
3. Do I meet the academic requirements to pursue it?
4. What careers are associated with that degree?
5. Is the degree in demand? If yes, where?
6. Do I have the motivation, time and energy to pursue it?
7. Can I afford it?



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What are the differences between a **certificate**, an **associate's degree**, a **bachelor's degree**, a **master's degree** and a **doctor's degree**?

A Doctor's Degree PH.D./ED.D	8 years or 2 more years after a MA/MS degree
A Master's Degree MA/MS	6 years or 2 more years after a BA/BS degree
A Bachelor's Degree BA/BS	4 years
An Associate's Degree AA/AS	2 years
A Certificate	1 year

The Truth
College is expensive and, unfortunately, many **honorable courses of study lead to jobs with relatively low pay.**

The Truth
15% of taxi drivers, 25% of retail sales clerks
5% of janitors, (115,520 workers) have a bachelor's degree.

The Truth
Engineering and science occupations continued their stranglehold on the top third of the rankings.

What are the **5 most common mistakes** that parents make regarding their children's post secondary education?

Many parents (especially first-generation of immigrants) –

- Do not "sit in the driver's seat" when it comes to their children's education. *They take the back seat.*
- Romanticize their children's post-secondary education. *They do not see it as a business or investment transaction.*
- Believe (or feel) that they have to always satisfy their kids' wishes. *They want to give their children everything they did not have when they were growing up and/or compensate for the suffering that comes with immigrating into the United States.*

What are some of the **most common mistake that parents make** regarding their children's post secondary education?

Continued...

Many parents (especially first-generation of immigrants) –

- Do not invest time and energy learning how to navigate the American Education System. *They might not know that they don't know or don't know how to know.*
- Do not invest time, energy and money educating themselves. *They might not understand the power of increasing their level of education or might not believe they have the capacity to do so.*

My advice to you is ...

- Get your GPA as high as you can.
- Take as many AP courses as you can and make sure you pass the AP test!
- Read a lot to improve your reading skills (vocabulary, speed and comprehension).
- Write a lot but always get feedback on how to improve your writing.
- Take rigorous math courses and do as many problems as you can with integrity.
- Enroll in ACT-prep courses to ensure that you meet the benchmark scores.
- Become financially-literate - learn how to support yourself and finance your education.
- When planning your college education, see it as a business transaction – get the most out of every dollar!

What **kind of relationship** should students have **with their parents during** their post secondary education?

Students must demonstrate **respect, gratitude, care** and a strong sense of **accountability** towards their parents.

The support that parents provide is an investment. They need to see results! Students should avoid becoming **professional students** hide behind "going to college" to avoid adult responsibilities.

Please, join me in Facebook!

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